(b) The prices of these drugs formulations are likely to go up.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The decision has been taken in accordance with the measures for rationalisation, quality control and growth of drugs and pharmaceutical industry in India announced by the Government in December, 1986.

Production of Hazardous Drugs etc. under New DPCO

1564. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Drug Industry has benefited immensely from the new Drugs Price Control Order;

(b) whether it is a fact that around 75 per cent of the drugs are exempted from price control;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the mark up has almost been doubled in the case of most of the drugs;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there is no hurdle in the production of dangerous, hazardous and toxic drugs and their combinations;

(e) whether it is also a fact that a number of hazardous drugs have been price decontrolled and mark up on their combinations has been increased; and

(f) if so, with what objective the Drugs Price Control Order has been formulated and how such an order will look after the consumers' interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (c) Some incentives like increase in the rate of maximum post manufacturing expenses (MAPE) have been allowed to the manufacturers of drugs as stated in the Measures announced by the Government in December, 1986.

(b) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) No different treatment can be given to any drug under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order on the ground whether it is hazardous or not or to any irrational combination till sale of such drug or combination in the country is banned under the relevant law. The details of formulations being marketed in India which have either been banned, restricted or withdrawn from human consumption in other countries are not available.

Review of Safety in Coal Mines

1565. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Directors of the coal companies review the safety position in their mines at regular intervals;

(b) if so, what are the decisions taken in such review meetings company-wise and date-wise;

(c) whether the Board of Directors has reviewed the implementation of Sixth Safety Conference position; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) The Boards of Directors of Coal Companies do review the safety position in their coal mines periodically. However, the basic decisions on safety matters are generally taken by the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines and the Safety Board of Coal India Ltd. Some of the important decisions recently taken by these forums include improvement of haulage ways, preparation of roof support plans for underground mines, greater involvement of workers in safety management etc.

(c) and (d) The Boards have not specifically reviewed the implementation of the recommendations of the Sixth Safety Conference. However, such a review has recently been made by the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines, specially of the Group 'A' recommendations of the Conference, dealing with accidents due to fall of roof or sides An important decision taken is to reintroduce operation of coal cutting machines with a view to eliminating accident-prone solid blasting to the extent possible.

Suits on behalf of Bhopal Gas Victims

1566. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have filed suits against the Union Carbide in America on behalf of the gas victims of Bhopal; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) the amount spent by Government in filing the suits on account of court-fees, for engaging of counsels, including the officers for briefing the counsels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) After the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster, a complaint was filed by the Government of India on behalf of the victims in the U.S. Federal District Court. New York against Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) claiming compensation. On a motion moved by UCC, this complaint was dismissed on grounds of forum non-conveniens subject to Union Carbide consenting to three conditions namely (i) to submit to the jurisdiction of the courts of India: (ii) to satisfy any judgement rendered against it by an Indian court, and if applicable, upheld by an appellate court, where such judgement and affirmance comport with the minimul requirements of due process; and (iii) to be subject to discovery under the model of the United States Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

UCC after consenting to all the three conditions, subject to its right to appeal, moved the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit against the condition relating to discovery. The Appellate Court deleted the condition relating to satisfaction of judgement rendered against it by an Indian Court and modified the condition relating to discovery. The Government of India thereafter moved the U.S. Supreme Court by filing a writ of certiorari on 22nd May, 1987 seeking to reinstate all the conditions as imposed by the U.S. District Court. The United States Supreme Court did not admit this petition.

In the meanwhile, proceedings are continuing in the Court of District Judge, Bhopal.

(b) A sum of about Rs. 6.8 crore has so far been spent on litigation, including briefing the counsels by the officers, and on litigation in USA and India.

Management-Labour relations in ECL

1567 SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management labour relations in ECL are under stress and strain; and

(b) if so, what are the causes thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) No special stress or strain in the management-labour relations has been noticed in the ECL. In fact, industrial relations have shown improvement as will be evident from the Table below:

January to October

	1986	1987
1 No. of Strikes	18	12
2. Mandays lost .	1.72.142	70.112
3. Production lost .	97.308	41,727
4. Other I.R. incidents	52	46